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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/614,885	07/07/2003	Garry Tsaur		8893
29745	7590	06/24/2005		
JOE NIEH 18760 E. AMAR ROAD #204 WALNUT, CA 91789			EXAMINER FIDEI, DAVID	
			ART UNIT 3728	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 06/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	10/614,885	TSAUR, GARRY
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	David T. Fidei	3728

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 June 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 07 July 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All
  - b) Some \*
  - c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

***Claim Objections***

1. Claims 1 and 7 are objected to because of the following informalities: These claims fail to further limit claims 1 and 7 by eliminating the open ends of the tube. Furthermore, it does not be possible to meet the limitations of these dependent claims while meeting the limitations of independent claim. Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-3, 5-10 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones (Patent no. 1,459,831) in view of Lowry et al (Patent Pub. No. US 2002/0088723).

Jones discloses an elongated tube housing 5 with two open ends and a fixed length that is preferably formed of aluminum that is considered to resist axial compression. An elongated member 18 is disposed with the hollow tube housing 5. The difference between the claimed subject matte and Jones resides in a protective covering enclosing the hollow tube housing and elongated member.

Lowry et al teaches the shipping of package 20 by the use of an outer shipping bag 36. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in art to modify the device of Jones by providing a protective cover enclosing the covering enclosing the hollow tube housing and elongated member as taught by Lowry et al, in order to permit shipping of the device for distribution.

As to claims 3 and 9 the open end of the housing is sealed at end 8.

As to claims 4 and 11, Lowry et al contemplates plastic in paragraph [0041].

As to claim 13, the swab applicator includes a handle 18 and an absorbent tip 20. The brush end is considered absorbent, as the applicator normally feels wet after normal use for a relatively long period.

4. Claims 4 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the prior art as applied to claims above, and further in view of Nichols (Patent no. 2,542,206).

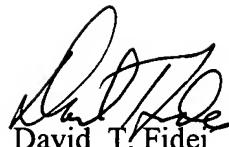
The difference between the claimed subject matter and Lowry et al resides in the protective covering having a notch. Providing a notch in a shipping bag is notoriously old and well known as taught by Nichols figures 4 and 5, # 18. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the protective covering by providing a notch in one or more of its edges in order to provide a convenient manner for opening the covering.

*Conclusion*

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David T. Fidei whose telephone number is (571) 272-4553. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mickey Yu can be reached on (571) 272-4562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Art Unit: 3728



David T. Fidei  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3728

dtf

September 23, 2004